

Montana Preschool Development Grant (MPDG)

Background:

Montana is one of five states who have received a federal Preschool Development Grant (Alabama, Arizona, Hawaii, Montana, and Nevada). Montana was awarded the full amount of \$10 million a year for up to four years.

The Preschool Development Grant competition supports states to:

- (1) Build or enhance preschool programs for the delivery of high-quality preschool services to children, and
- (2) Expand access to high-quality preschool programs in targeted communities. These sites will serve as models for preschool to all 4-year-olds from low- and moderate-income families.

The MPDG will be jointly implemented by the Governor's Office, the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS.)

More information about the MPDG can be found on the U.S. Department of Education Website:
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/preschooldevelopmentgrants/index.html>



Grant Participants

The MPDG will help Montana improve access to high quality preschool education in 16 high needs communities, eight of which are on Indian lands. Grant funding can be used to support four-year-old children from families whose income is at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Line or who have been determined as eligible for special education. The grant will enable Montana to provide high quality preschool to 6,000 four-year olds in 16 communities over the four-year period.

| MPDG Participants | |
|-------------------|--|
| Cohort I | Great Falls School District |
| | Hardin School District |
| | CMHS Head Start, Lewistown Area |
| | RMDC Head Start, Helena Area |
| | HRDC Head Start, Bozeman Area |
| Cohort II | Fort Peck Head Start |
| | Blackfeet Early Childhood Center Head Start |
| | Anaconda School District |
| | Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Head Start |
| | Crow Nation Head Start |
| | Kootenai Valley Head Start, Libby and Troy Libby School District |
| Cohort III | Kalispell School District |
| | Kalispell Head Start |
| | Butte Head Start |
| | Butte School District |
| | Lame Deer Head Start |
| | Rocky Boy Head Start |
| | Ronan and Pablo Head Start |
| | Fort Belknap Head Start |

The MPDG participants have been categorized into Cohorts. Cohort I will begin implementation in the fall of 2015, Cohort II will participate in training and will implement the grant requirements in the fall of 2016, and Cohort III will attend training in 2016 and will begin implementation in the fall of 2017.

Cohort I consists of Early Learning Providers that are part of the Montana Striving Readers Project and who have already begun to implement many of the components of Montana's Preschool Education Standards. These programs will serve as models and mentors for the new programs that will be added each year of the grant.



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**Montana
Office of Public Instruction**
Denise Jur

Education and Local Government
July 16, 2015
EXHIBIT 5

Montana Preschool Development Grant Project Activities and Outcomes

The purpose of the Preschool Development Grant is to support state and local efforts to build, develop, and expand High-Quality Preschool Programs so children from low-and moderate-income families enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and in life.

The OPI State Team will support the development and enhancement of Program Leadership and Administration, Curriculum, Assessment, and implementation of the Montana Early Learning Standards. The DPHHS State Team will support the development and enhancement of Preschool Program Delivery Standards which include Physical and Learning Environments, Child Guidance, and Family and Community Engagement.

The following MPDG project activities and objectives will be accomplished through ongoing support from both OPI and DPHHS.

| Project Activities | Project Objectives |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Implement the Montana Preschool Education Standards within each high-need community to ensure high quality preschools for all eligible children.•Implement the Montana Preschool Education Standards within each <i>high needs community</i>.•Align program and content standards from birth to grade 3.•Expand, implement, and sustain comprehensive services in the identified <i>high needs communities</i>. | <p>Expand the number and percentage of <i>eligible children</i> in <i>high-needs communities</i> served by <i>high quality preschool programs</i> and who are ready for kindergarten as determined by a valid and reliable assessment for kindergarten readiness.</p> <p>Develop and implement a <i>Kindergarten Entry Assessment System</i> for participating children by the end of Year 3 of the grant.</p> <p>Support targeted early learning providers and gather data about the implementation of structural elements of high-quality preschool programs as identified in the Montana Preschool Education Standards.</p> |

Budget

Sixty-five percent of the grant will go directly to the three cohorts to support salaries, full day programs, class size ratio, and resources for implementing Montana's Preschool Education Standards. Thirty five percent of the grant will go towards regional specialists to support the three cohorts, financial assistance for educators to advance on Montana's Career Path, and developing infrastructure to enable the delivery of High-Quality Preschool Programs.

Financial Assistance Opportunities for Career Advancement

Early learning providers within the identified high needs programs will have financial assistant opportunities for career advancement on the Montana Career Path through the Montana Early Childhood Project.

For Additional Information Contact:

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